

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6743  
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005  
DOHA ROUND ACHIEVEMENTS  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India has achieved all major objectives in the frame work agreement of the World Trade Organization in Doha round of trade negotiations adopted in August last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to safeguard the interests of farming sector; and
- (d) the names of the like minded countries who supported the India's views?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) to (d): The Framework Agreement adopted by the WTO General Council on 1st August, 2004, by consensus, lays down the principles and criteria for further negotiations, covering Agriculture, Non-Agricultural Market Access, Trade Facilitation and specifically development-related issues. The issues relating to Trade and Investment, Competition Policy and Government Procurement stand removed. In respect of services and development-related issues, it recognizes the importance of their development aspects and establishes time frames.

The Government had drawn attention to specific areas of concern to India for appropriate resolution in the drafts that have been presented at various stages of the negotiations, including on Agriculture. India has made concerted efforts to develop common positions and strategies with like-minded developing countries, including in the G-20 Alliance on Agriculture (an alliance presently consisting of 21 developing countries that includes Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa and Thailand) and the G-33 Alliance on Special Products (an alliance presently consisting of 42 developing countries that includes China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Zimbabwe). These efforts have served to ensure, inter alia, that the elements and principles incorporated in the agreed Framework on Agriculture lead to substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries, a credible end date for elimination of their export subsidies, and substantial market access improvements for products of export interest to developing countries. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs.

The Framework Agreement of 1 August 2004 duly addresses India's interests and concerns. The efforts of the Government are to ensure that India's interests are safeguarded through appropriate engagement in the negotiations and through coalition building with like-minded WTO Members and Members' groupings, such as the G-20 and G-33.

The Framework Agreement is only an interim stage towards conclusion of the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations. The next step would be finalization of modalities which would result, inter alia, in agreement on formulae for reduction in domestic support along with formulae for tariff reduction and setting up the actual date for elimination of export subsidies for agricultural products. Government is determined to ensure that our concerns continue to be adequately addressed as negotiations proceed.